

Shortcomings in the Current Body of Marine Recreational Fisheries Economic Data



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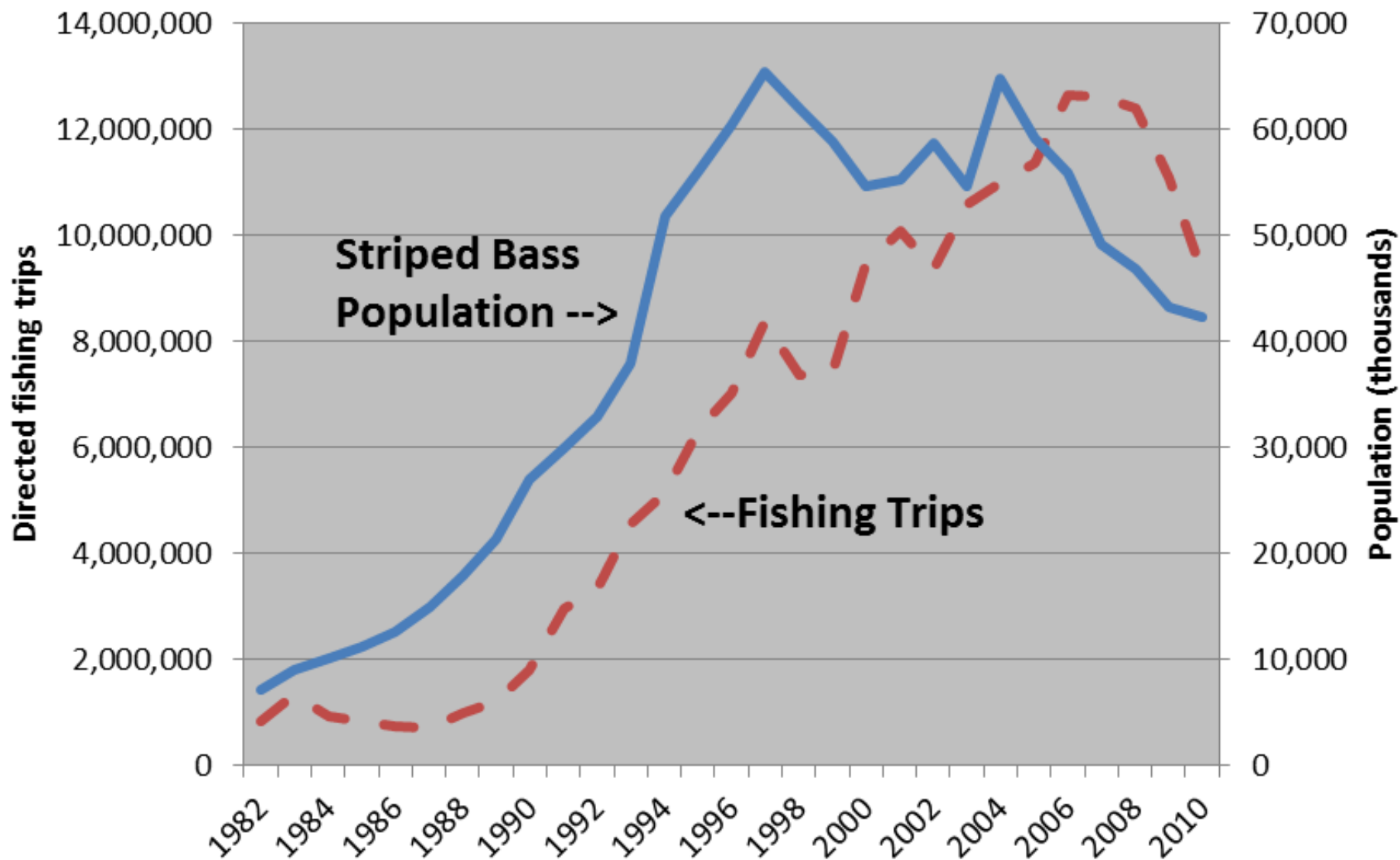
Introduction

- Past management issues have suffered from limited or missing economic data elements.
- Desired Goals:
 1. Discuss challenges to filling these information gaps
 2. Begin to prioritize information gaps
- Examples of recent and ongoing issues are next.

Recent Issue: California salmon / Water allocations

Key Information Gaps:

- Marginal changes in participation & spending resulting from changes in:
 - Fish stocks: we do not know the potential impacts from restoring stocks



Data Source: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Recent Issue: California salmon / Water allocations

Key Information Gaps:

- Marginal changes in participation & spending resulting from changes in:
 - Fish stocks: striped bass
 - Regulatory changes: reef fish, South Atlantic snapper
 - Access (California, Biscayne National Park)

In California, we heard (without statistical support):

“Anglers would simply shift 100% of effort & \$\$ elsewhere”

“Anglers will not shift to other recreations, will not reduce expenditures or take their dollars outside the economic area.”

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

Key Information Gaps:

- Lack of local and fishery-specific economic information
- Lack of procedures for how to apply such information

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

Requirements within MSA:

- National Standard 8: “Conservation and management measures shall...take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by **utilizing economic and social data**... and to the extent practicable, **minimize adverse economic impacts** on such communities.”
- Sec. 303. Contents of Fishery Management Plans:
 - “specify the pertinent data... including **economic information** necessary to meet the requirements of this Act
 - “assess, specify, and analyze the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, **economic, and social impacts**, of the conservation and management measures on participants in the fishery”
 - “include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery, including its **economic impact**”

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

- Example: South Atlantic Red Snapper
 - In 2009, NMFS proposed 5,000 sq mi bottom-fishing closure
 - “cost and revenue data for even the most directly affected businesses, such as fish dealers and bait and tackle shops, is unavailable”¹
 - ASA and Big Rock Sports commissioned a survey of Southeast tackle dealers:²
 - 1,300 stores selling bait and tackle will be directly affected
 - \$78 million in sales would be lost in the first year of the ban
 - 578 jobs will be affected

¹50 CFR Part 622

²Georgetown Economic Services. 2010. “An Economic Impact Study of the Effects of Closures in the South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Fishery on the Bait and Tackle Retail Industry”

Ongoing Issue: Weighing Economic Impacts in Regulatory Process

- Example: South Atlantic 240-foot closure
 - In 2011, bottom fishing closure at depths 240+ ft was enacted
 - Limited biological data. Economic data non-existent
 - After hearing considerable testimony from businesses severely affected (one ASA member laid off 72% of its long time employees), the SAFMC removed the bottom fishing closure

Ongoing Issue: Allocations

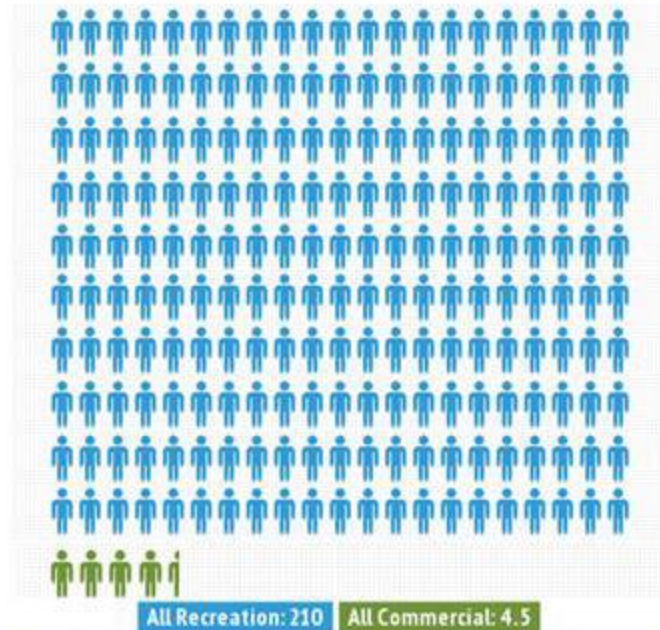
Key Information Gaps:

- The economic impacts/contributions from various recreational & commercial allocations

Outside data often shows a need for re-examination:

- Stripers: 17.3 greater impact at retail¹
- Gulf red snapper: recreational sector has 16 times higher economic value²

Figure 4. Jobs per 100,000 pounds Landed in the United States, 2011



Data Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2011, NOAA Fisheries.

¹ Southwick Associates. 2005. "The Economics of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing"

² Gentner Consulting Group. June 2013. "Comparison of different red snapper allocation levels across recreational and commercial sectors"

Recent Issues: Marine closures in California; Biscayne National Park

Key Information Gaps:

- No knowledge of where they fish spatially (no reliable GIS data)
 - This makes it difficult to measure the potential economic effects of selected area closures.

Proposal 4 Closure Areas

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon by trolling only

Commercial and recreational take of invertebrates (including abalone), algae and other plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed.

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of urchin.

Only abalone and finfish may be taken recreationally

Only commercial and recreational Dungeness crab and surf smelt hand net only from shore.

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon by trolling only.

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon (by trolling only) and Dungeness crab pots

Only commercial and recreational salmon trolling only.

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon (by trolling only), Dungeness crab pots, and halibut and recreational take only of finfish hook and line from shore.

Only the commercial and recreational take of salmon (by trolling only)

Only commercial and recreational salmon trolling, Dungeness crab pots, market squid, and coastal pelagics (Pacific sardines, Northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, and Jack mackerel) by troll or pelagics

State Waters (Offshore Line)

Limited Recreational Fishing Permitted

No Take of Any Type Permitted

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers



Map Produced by:
Southwick Associates
Albers Projection
N. American Datum - 1983
Created on April 7, 2008

MENDOCINO COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY

NAPA COUNTY

YOLO COUNTY

SOLANO COUNTY

MARIN COUNTY

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

ALAMEDA COUNTY

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Conclusion

- Important questions remain unanswered
- Can we find solutions and answers?

